

22 December 1947

\*\*OGC Has Reviewed\*

MEMORANDUM FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Organization of General Counsel's Office.

There has recently been an unfortunate internal situation in this office, arising out of misunderstandings and disagreements concerning the intent and nature of reorganizations and reassignments which took place last summer. Prior to these moves, I, with [REDACTED] as my only assistant, constituted the Office of General Counsel. During the summer it was determined by the Director's office that Mr. Pforzheimer would be placed in my office as an assistant, with his legislative and liaison duties carried on separately from the General Counsel's work. It was my impression at the time that this gave me two assistants, one of whom, [REDACTED] was to specialize in OSO matters; the other of whom, Mr. Pforzheimer, was to assist generally in all matters except those involving OSO, and would carry on his special and separate legislative liaison work. Since I had worked very closely with [REDACTED] for two years I tended to regard him as the assistant with the more general knowledge and experience of CIA legal matters. Since Mr. Pforzheimer was new to many of the legal problems of CIA, and was unfamiliar with the procedures of this office I assumed it would require a training period for him to become familiar with all aspects of the work. I now understand that I was under somewhat of a misapprehension, and that a commitment had been made to Mr. Pforzheimer that in my absence he would be looked to for the legal work of CIA outside of OSO. I regret my own error in the misunderstanding of the situation, as it has undoubtedly contributed to the unpleasantness of the situation.

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After considerable, frank discussion with the two assistants concerned, I suggest the following as the proper estimate of the situation. [REDACTED] in connection with his OSO work will carry the considerably larger legal work load, with the more difficult and detailed legal aspects. He must be, however, generally familiar with all the work of the office in order for consistency in legal decisions throughout CIA. Experience of the last few weeks indicates that it may be necessary to recruit another assistant to carry on some of the routine details of the office, and, especially, to assist [REDACTED] in disposing of the heavy work load from OSO. Mr. Pforzheimer, in his capacity as assistant General Counsel will be concerned primarily with technical departmental problems arising outside of OSO, and with some outside liaison and contacts necessary to carry on the legal work of CIA.

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As co-equal assistants, I conceive of neither [REDACTED] nor Mr. Pforzheimer as being "over" or "subordinate" to the other. In my absence it would seem logical that one person be responsible for the work of the office, and I would so recommend if I were to leave for

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any period of time. The practical difficulty with this is, that Mr. Pforzheimer is not concerned with OSO work and could not answer for that branch, whereas, on the other hand, the above-mentioned commitment was made to him as to his status in regard to CIA as a whole. Under these circumstances, each will have separate responsibilities for their respective spheres. If this is the wish of the Director's office, I am confident that Mr. Pforzheimer and 25X1A Mr. [REDACTED] will cooperate to present coordinated results.

Would you indicate whether I am correct in my understanding:

1. that the two assistants are co-equal with specific spheres of special interest within the office, which are exclusive, subject to interchange of general knowledge of the work involved, and
2. that in my absence, the Director and other CIA offices will look separately to [REDACTED] for OSO legal matters, and to Mr. Pforzheimer for general CIA legal matters outside of OSO.

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[REDACTED]  
LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel